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Living Conditions

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1. The factory [] in Leningrad was known as Institute 380. The building was three stories high (plus a basement, which previously had been used as a library) and contained 30 to 40 rooms. It was located in the center of the city on the banks of the Neva River. There was only one entrance; it was guarded by women wearing grey capes. [] carried passes bearing our photographs. [] li50X1-HUM quarters were on Moscow See Street, about a half-hour bus ride from the facto50X1-HUM [] taken to and from work by a special bus and [] allowed on the stree50X1-HUM only when accompanied by a Soviet guard. [] living quarters [] had radice receivers [] built from parts brought from Germany. Programs from the West in the Russian language were usually jammed. Soviet radio receivers were good but most of them were copies of US models. Many were German receivers with So50X1-HUM made cabinets.

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Equipment and Personnel

2. The equipment here was 80-90% German and 10% American. The only Soviet apparatus was a vacuum tube voltmeter and a standard frequency generator, both imitations of American prototypes. The German personnel consisted of [] Arnstadt group (20); 12-15 from Tannwald, [] and a small group of approximately 10 men who had come from various other places. There were about 200 Soviet technicians and helpers, but they were shifted almost constantly, making it necessary to continually train new people. This, of course, interfered with production. The technical workers were very friendly and helpful but always on their guard for fear of saying too much. The Soviet management and political leaders were cold and reserved. 50X1-HUM

Work Done at the Institute

3. [] work at Institute 380 consisted in repairing measuring instruments, adjusting and altering the TV receiving sets which had been brought along from Arnstadt so that they would operate on the fluctuating local power supply. Voltages fluctuated as much as 10%, and frequency was equally unstable. After the sets from Arnstadt had been put in working order, which took almost a year, 300 more receivers were built for high-ranking Soviets. [] developed an instrument assembly called the "Kitu" for making the tests and adjustments. It consisted of an impulse generator, an electromagnetic scanning device ("Kipp gaerete"), a picture adjusting or control unit, and a Knolloskope (monoscope in the US)--all built in a single unit cabinet. The Knolloskope (named for the inventor, Knoll) consists of a single picture etched on thin metal and fastened to a glass plate used as a test source for a receiver. This instrument could be used for testing and repairing receivers operating on 625 or 441 lines. Most of the tubes that we used were Soviet copies of American or German tubes. There was a tube factory in Moscow, but [] never learned its name or location. [] special tubes were made at the Wald Institute on Lesnaya Street (where the Tannwald Germans worked for some time). [] the reliability of Soviet tubes approached that of the German tubes; the same was true of resistors. 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM
4. The Soviets adopted US characteristics and nomenclature. Although the metric system of measurement is used, TV tubes were designated 7-inch, 9-inch, etc. At the beginning of 1949 a US Philco TV set was acquired. It was in good repair and operated much better than the sets [] constructed; it also contained some circuits not known at the time in the USSR. [] 50X1-HUM

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No new ideas could be incorporated without submitting them to the proper ministerium and having them embodied in the "plan". There did not seem to be a shortage of material but "red tape" made it impossible to get supplies without long delays. A Soviet directed all the "plans"

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Secret Work

5. [] 25% of Institute 380 was set aside for secret work--and no Germans were admitted there. [] Germans speculated that 25 Soviets were employed in that section. [] they were trying to copy the small German camera, K-11, and a receiver (40 x 25 x 25 cm) with a 7-inch picture tube and a 150-200 watt transmitter. A TV transmitter of several kilowatts power was finished and put in operation in Leningrad

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A Strike Among the Germans

6. In 1949 when the one-year contract expired, all the Germans stopped working and refused to go to the plant. However, after many visits from higher officials and after being threatened with physical labor in eastern USSR, [] returned to work.

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Technical Education in the USSR

7. [] there were an unusual number of students interested in technical education in the USSR. The percentage of failures in school was far smaller than in Germany, because academic standards were low and placed below Party loyalty. [] graduates of Soviet technical schools were on a par with the lower third or quarter of graduating German engineers. The number of male and female engineers was about equally divided. The women were willing workers but they never attained the skill of the men in industrial positions. Professors were always male. College students were paid an average wage of 300 rubles per month; the best students received 450 rubles. In case of failure in class work or of disciplinary action, this payment was discontinued and the student usually had to drop out--in which case he was not charged with failure. Students usually lived and ate in a communal hall.

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General Comments

8. [] the common Soviet people understanding and willing to help us whenever possible, but they were always reserved and afraid of being "reported". The Soviet is fond of his vodka, even at 30 rubles per liter. (Drunkards are taken to the hospital to sober up. After that they work two days for the state.) If vodka were taken from the Soviets, there would be a revolution. Wool yarn and white flour were never sold. This prevented people from knitting garments or baking cakes for sale and thereby getting uncontrolled money.

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9. Stalin takes the place of a god in the minds of the Soviet children. [] would not be surprised to hear an assertion that he will live on forever. (Doctors are already working on methods of prolonging his life.) [] Stalin is in the hands of a great net ("plan") and has little to say in the present regime. The church is again growing in influence, especially with the young people.

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